



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Fleet Mapping Work Session Successful

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Kalispell Hilton Garden Inn was the site of a Fleet Mapping work session that took place beginning Monday afternoon, Nov. 17, and ending Thursday at noon on Nov. 20. Nearly 25 participants attended the training, representing the counties of Blaine, Cascade, Gallatin, Flathead, Lake, Meagher, and Richland as well as the Montana Dept. of Corrections, Dept. of Transportation, and the Salish and Kootenai Tribe.

Seven instructors were involved in the session. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton began the session with a review of radio terminology and programming. He and Lewis and Clark Radio System Manager Roger Hays, also covered technology issues related to simplex and conventional repeater operations as well as trunking concepts and features.

Helena Police Lieutenant Corey Livesay, covered a wide range of subjects, including mobile and portable radio features, business practices, scanning and priorities, and fleet mapping functions. He also reviewed criteria for determining user operational requirements, who needs to talk to whom, and areas of operation. Montana Highway Patrol Communications Technician Dale Osborne explained encryption principles and tools.

Hill County Sheriff Don Brostrom explained the concept of talk groups and talk group structure as well as several other details related to the fleet mapping process. Flathead County Radio Administrator Jack Spillman and Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, also assisted in the instruction and walk-through exercises.

Participants were required to fill out the Fleet Mapping checklist ahead of the session. On the third day of training, they broke into small groups and analyzed the information they brought with them to begin the process of creating a fleet map and determining how code plugs should be derived. Instructors were able to provide personalized assistance and share individual know-how about the subject matter. Kudos to all the instructors!

Many thanks are also owed to the Training Sub-Committee Chair Kerry O'Connell, Sweet Grass County, and members: Golden Valley County Sheriff Floyd Fisher; Dorothy Gremaux, Central Montana Dispatch Center; I-15/90 Consortium Project Director Dave McPherson; Cindy Mullaney, Flathead County; Richland County Undersheriff Dennis Palmer; and Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) staff members Scott Bradford and Wing Spooner.

Additional work sessions are planned for January and February/March. We will keep you posted on dates and locations.

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IM Technical Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Technical Committee (IMTC) met in Helena on Mon., Nov. 24. IMTC Chair Bob McWilliams began the meeting with a report on Administrative Committee decision making. The committee approved a Certificate of Completion for the Hill County radio templates and a change order for Motorola frequency work at Blacktail, Divide, Mt. Royal and the Kalispell Water Tower.

Scott Bradford, Frequency Sub-Committee Chair, reviewed the latest frequency report for the project and asked members to provide direction on which sites to obtain frequencies for next. Dale Osborne, Encryption Chair, said that participants at last week's Fleet Mapping work session were informed about encryption and key loaders. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reported that Roger Smith and Dave Clouse, Network Design Sub-Committee members, spent two weeks inspecting the microwave system. Members were reminded that Motorola is still in the testing phase and the system has not been turned over to local jurisdictions yet. No one should be using the system until it is officially announced that it is ready. The system may be unavailable anytime without notice as installation is finalized.

A small group of IMTC members met to review items from the Oct. 21 five-year planning session to refine the details and separate projects as either infrastructure, microwave or trunking. The working group will continue to update the plan and will send it out electronically soon. Members added several sites to the list and provided additional clarification.

The committee formally adopted the Site Development Process document and approved several Decision/Information Requests (DIRs). Motorola's 2nd Year Maintenance Proposal also was reviewed and suggestions were made for cost savings. Bob McWilliams appointment to the IM Staffing Sub-Committee was formally endorsed.

Scott Bradford, PSSB, will forward the results from Pyramid (Motorola sub-contractor's) evaluation report on the location of the Second Master Controller. Comments and priorities should be sent to Bob McWilliams prior to a special conference call that took place Dec. 1.

The next IMTC meeting will be Mon., Dec. 22 at the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) large conference room, 2717 Skyway Drive in Helena beginning at 9:00 am.

Public Safety Services Bureau News

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Congratulations are due to Chris Christensen, Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) Bureau Chief, who is retiring at the end of the year. He has made tremendous contributions to the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project, and we will miss him greatly.

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However, he is delighted to retire so that he may enjoy more time with his family.

Additionally, the physical offices of the Bureau will be moved to the Mitchell Building, 125 North Roberts Street in Helena. The move will take place before the end of the year.

In other news, Scott Bradford, PSSB Communications Manager, announced that the 1033 Program may experience slight delays because of the void left by Pete Mohan's passing. PSSB is grateful for the efforts of Rick Seiler, Valley County DES, who is assisting on a temporary basis. Pete's former position has been advertised, and 14 applications have been received. The HAM will keep you informed when a hiring decision has been made.

IM Finance Committee

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Interoperability Montana (IM) Finance Committee met in Helena on Monday, Dec. 1 at the offices of Anderson and ZurMuehlen (AZ). Several Decision/Information Requests (DIRs) were addressed for funding priority and source of funding. The Motorola 2nd Year Maintenance Proposal also was reviewed and a funding source will be determined at a Dec. 23 work session.

Members also discussed alternatives for ensuring that FY05 Dept. of Homeland Security grant funds are appropriately expended in a timely manner. In addition, they discussed funding options for the snow cat, since it is not eligible to be funded by STR funds.

Irene Bushnell, Anderson ZurMuehlen (AZ) provided a report on Master Project Funding Sources and accounting processes. Cindy Mullaney, Flathead County Acting Director of the Office of emergency Services, volunteered to assist in the document review. Irene also is beginning the process of tracking soft grant matches. Members provided Irene with suggestions of the type of financial information needed by IM Project Directors.

Members were updated on the status of IM Award Letters, the state-appropriated funds draw-down process, and COPS Grant subscriber unit invoices. The committee approved a motion to increase the signature authority of the IM Executive Director to \$25,000 for approved budgetary expenses to allow for more timely processing of invoices. Expenditures above the \$25,000 threshold will require a second signature.

Bill Fleiner reported that the current Governor's budget has a \$2 million placeholder for the IM Project that will be used for grant matches, contingencies, administration and operations.

The next IM Finance Committee regular meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 12, 2009 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at AZ offices located at 828 Great Northern Blvd. in Helena. The Dec. 23 work session also will take place at AZ, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Dec. 10

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)
Livingston • 10:00
City County Complex Community Rm.
414 East Callender St.

Dec. 11

Mobile Data Terminal Consortium
Bozeman • 10:00
City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

Dec. 17

Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Working Group
Great Falls • 10:00
Great Falls Police Dept., 112 1st St S.

Dec. 17

Eastern Tier (ETIC)
Glendive • 10:00 am
Dawson County Courthouse Community Room
207 West Bell

Dec. 18

I-15/90 Corridor
Butte • 10:00 am
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce
1000 George St.

Dec. 22

IM Technical Committee Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 172

Dec. 23

IM Finance Committee Work Session
Helena • 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Jan. 7

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
Great Falls • 10:00 am
Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

Jan. 12

IM Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Jan. 12

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
Dept. of Corrections Annex Conf. Rm.
Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Jan. 13

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conference Room, 2717 Skyway Drive